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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/347,523	07/06/1999	YOSHIYUKI GOMI	103229	3978
25944	7590	01/25/2005	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320				NGUYEN, DUNG T
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/347,523	GOMI, YOSHIYUKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Dung Nguyen	2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 4,5,7,8 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 4,5,7,8 and 27 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's amendment dated 11/10/2004 has been received and entered. By the amendment, claims 4-5, 7-8 and 27 are remain pending in the application.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 4, 7 and 27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 4-5, 7-8 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA), figure 11, in view of Ray et al., US Patent No. 5,701,008 and Fukuda, US Patent No. 5,764,323.

Regarding claims 4-5, 7-8 and 27, APA discloses an electro-optical device (figure 11) comprising:

- a pair of substrates (30, 31);
- an electro-optical material (39);
- a plurality of pixels (46);
- a lens array (L) with a plurality of convex microlenses as claimed;
- a step portion (LB);
- a transparent cover (49) adhered to the lens;

a photo curing resin sealing material would be inherently forming for adhering two substrates together (see APA'S specification, page 3, lines 4-5).

APA, however, does not disclose that the step portion being substantially equal in height to the microlenses as well as a thin layer of the adhesive being disposed between the step portion and the sealing material including a height that is less than the height of the adhesive over inter lenses position adjacent to one of the microlenses. Ray et al do disclose that a step portion can be formed with the height of microlenses as well as the thin layer of the adhesive being disposed between the step portion and the sealing material width of the step portion being wider than the entire width of the sealing material (8) (e.g., upper portion of the sealing material) as shown in figure 4, and the height of the thin layer inherently formed less than that of the adhesive over inter lenses position adjacent to one of the microlenses. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify APA'S electro-optical device having a step portion which is substantially equal in height to the microlenses in order to improve the detection efficiency of detector element (i.e., pixels) (see col. 2, ln.. 21). In case of no photo curing resin using for sealant, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form a photo curing resin based material because it is notoriously well known in the ad using such photo curing resin for the purpose of sealing, and it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

In addition, APA does not disclose the step of polishing a surface of a transparent cover after the adhering. Fukuda does disclose the step of polishing a surface of a transparent cover (73) covered micro lenses (72)(see figures 9A-9E). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the step of polishing a surface of a transparent cover after adhering to the micro lenses in the APA's method as shown by Fukuda in order to accurate alignment a focal point to each pixel when micro lenses are incorporated in an LCD panel (col. 7, ln.18).

It is noted that since the method of manufacturing the device is merely a list of forming each component and each component must be formed to make the device, the method of manufacturing would be inherent to the device.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

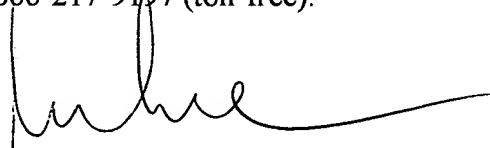
4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2297. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



DN
01/22/2005

Dung Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2871